

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

In re Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001	03 MDL 1570 (GBD)(SN) ECF Case
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This document relates to:

Cheryl Rivelli, et al v. Islamic Republic of Iran (1:18-cv-11878) (GBD) (SN)

**DECLARATION OF JERRY S. GOLDMAN, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF RIVELLI
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PARTIAL FINAL JUDGMENT III (Functional Equivalent)**

JERRY S. GOLDMAN, Esq., hereby states under penalty of perjury, as provided for by 28 U.S.C. § 1746, as follows:

1. I am an attorney representing the *Rivelli III* Plaintiffs in the above-captioned litigation, and I submit this declaration in support of the motion for final judgment on behalf of the plaintiffs listed in the attached Exhibit A.

2. The form of this motion and the relief requested herein are intended to comply with the following orders of this Court:

a. The Court's order dated January 24, 2017 (ECF No. 3435), requiring that "[a]ll further motions for final judgment against any defaulting defendant shall be accompanied by a sworn declaration attesting that the attorney has (1) complied with the due diligence safeguards [referenced in Section II.D. of the January 23, 2017 letter from the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee (ECF No. 3433)] and (2) personally verified that no relief has previously been awarded to any plaintiff included in the judgment (or, if relief has been awarded, the nature of that relief)." For compliance with the required sworn declaration, please see paragraph 6, below.

b. The Court's Order dated October 14, 2016 (ECF No. 3363) concerning the amounts of solatium damage awards.

c. The Court's Order dated October 14, 2016 (ECF No. 3362) related to the cases captioned as *Bauer v. Al Qaeda Islamic Army*, 02-CV-7236 (GBD)(SN) and *Ashton v. al Qaeda Islamic Army*, 02-CV-6977 (GBD)(SN).

d. The Court's Order dated October 28, 2019 (ECF No. 5234) setting forth updated procedural rules.

e. The Court's Order dated October 28, 2019 (ECF No. 5338) setting forth the scheduling order.

Due Diligence:

3. The source of my information and the basis for my belief in my statements contained herein is my personal involvement in this matter for the past fifteen years; my firm's representation of the *Rivelli III* plaintiffs listed in Exhibit A in connection with the September 11th litigation; communications directly from family members of the individuals killed in the attacks on September 11th and the plaintiffs listed in Exhibit A; communications with other counsel for other plaintiffs in the *In re Terrorist Attack on September 11, 2001* multidistrict litigation; and, documents and records contained in my firm's file and other court records relating to the multi-district litigation to which the *Rivelli III* Plaintiffs are parties. Any matters about which I lack personal knowledge are asserted herein upon information and belief.

4. The *Rivelli III* Plaintiffs identified in Exhibit A are each immediate family members or functional equivalents thereof, of decedents from the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, as specifically set forth on Exhibit A, which includes individuals who were not named in the complaint, but are otherwise members of the 9/11 decedent's family, and are entitled to receive a judgment for solatium based upon their relationship to the 9/11 decedent because there is a pending claim by the personal representative of that decedent's estate. These plaintiffs have provided documentary evidence of their familial relationship to a 9/11 decedent, such as birth or marriage certificates, sworn affidavits, official documents or other documents signed under penalty of perjury, which attest to a familial relationship eligible for recovery, and, in the case of a subsequently deceased family member, a death certificate or sworn affidavit which reflects that the claimant did not predecease the 9/11 victim.

5. All of the decedents listed in Exhibit A died in the September 11th terrorist attacks and are survived by the family members whose relationships to the decedents are described in Exhibit A. These relationships have been personally verified by staff members in my office who have obtained written documentation and/or conducted interviews confirming the relationships.

6. With respect to each estate plaintiff, the personal representative has provided the undersigned counsel with proof that he or she has been appointed by the court as the personal representative of the deceased relative.

7. To minimize the chance of any human error, my firm has instituted a further level of quality control, during which an additional attorney has reviewed all case files and corroborated that the relationship is as stated in Exhibit A and that the claimants all survived the deaths of their loved ones on September 11, 2001.

8. Before filing this motion, I have (1) complied with the due diligence safeguards referenced in Section II.D of the January 23, 2017 letter from the Plaintiffs' Executive Committees (ECF No. 3433) and (2) personally verified that, based on my review of the records available to me regarding other judgments entered by this Court against Iranian defendants, no relief has previously been awarded to any plaintiff included in the judgment.

Solatium:

9. We have been retained individually by the plaintiffs listed in Exhibit A to pursue recovery for their solatium losses arising out of the deaths of their loved ones on September 11, 2001. Each claimant listed in Exhibit A is the relative, functional equivalent thereof, or acting on behalf of the estate of a decedent, all of whom have previously been awarded a final default judgment only on liability against Iran in relation to the September 11th terrorist attacks. We have verified that none of the plaintiffs listed in Exhibit A have recovered for their solatium

damages previously, nor do they have any other pending motion before this Court for compensation arising out of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

10. The solatium amounts set forth in Exhibit A are the figures this Court has previously determined appropriate for solatium damages based on familial relationship to the decedent. *See, e.g.*, 03-md-1570, ECF Nos. 3175 at 2; 3300 at 1; 3358 at 9; 3363 at 16; 3399, 3666, and 4023.

Functional Equivalents:

11. A true and correct copy of the Declaration of Christopher Michael Ruggieri is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

12. A true and correct copy of the Declaration of Phylicia Ruggieri is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

13. A true and correct copy of the Declaration of Cheryl Rivelli is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

14. Upon information and belief, Christopher Michael Ruggieri and Phylicia Ruggieri were the stepchildren of Joseph Rivelli, Jr., a firefighter who died on September 11, 2001 when the World Trade Center collapsed. For the reasons set forth in the Declaration of Christopher Michael Ruggieri, the Declaration of Phylicia Ruggieri, and the Declaration of Cheryl Rivelli, I believe Christopher Michael Ruggieri and Phylicia Ruggieri each qualify as the child equivalent of Joseph Rivelli, Jr. *See* Exhibit B, C, D, respectively. In particular, upon information and belief, Joseph Rivelli, Jr. had been living with and supporting both Christopher Michael Ruggieri and Phylicia Ruggieri financially and emotionally as a father since Christopher Michael Ruggieri and Phylicia Ruggieri were only 2 and 6 years old, respectively, and whose biological father did not financial support them and both Christopher Michael Ruggieri and Phylicia Ruggieri r. *See* Exhibit B, C, D, respectively.

Notice of Amendment Compliance

15. Christopher Michael Ruggieri is an individual who is not named in the complaint but is otherwise a member of the 9/11 decedent's, Joseph Rivelli, Jr., family entitled to receive a judgment for solatium based upon his family relationship, as the 9/11 decedent's stepchild who should be deemed the functional equivalent of Joseph Rivelli, Jr.'s child. The personal representative of the relevant 9/11 decedent is a named party in this litigation and has complied with the Court's requirements pursuant to its January 25, 2017 Order.

16. Phylcia Ruggieri is an individual who is not named in the complaint but is otherwise a member of the 9/11 decedent's, Joseph Rivelli, Jr., family entitled to receive a judgment for solatium based upon his family relationship, as the 9/11 decedent's stepchild who should be deemed the functional equivalent of Joseph Rivelli, Jr.'s child. The personal representative of the relevant 9/11 decedent is a named party in this litigation and has complied with the Court's requirements pursuant to its January 25, 2017 Order.

17. Before filing this motion, I have (1) complied with the due diligence safeguards referenced in Section II.D of the January 23, 2017 letter from the Plaintiffs' Executive Committees (ECF No. 3433) and (2) personally verified that, based on my review of the records available to me regarding other judgments entered by this Court against Iranian defendants, no relief has previously been awarded to any plaintiff included in the judgment.

Conclusion

18. Based on the foregoing, I respectfully request that this Court grant the proposed order attached to the Notice of Motion.

Dated: January 2, 2020
New York, NY



Jerry S. Goldman, Esq.